

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 292759

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MNUC, TW, EC

SUBJECT: TAIWAN'S INTEREST IN PLUTONIUM IMPORTS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 11602

1. DEPT WELCOMES EC COMMISSION'S DECISION TO DISAPPROVE EXPORT OF 10/5 KG PLUTONIUM TO TAIWAN (REFTEL). THE DECISION REFLECTS NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES VIS-A-VIS TAIWAN WHICH US FULLY SUPPORTS. IN CONVEYING BACK TO COMMISSION DEPT'S INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR THIS DECISION, YOU MAY INFORM COMMISSION THAT US RECENTLY
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INFORMALLY TOLD ROC THAT USG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO APPROVE

AN EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FROM TAIWAN'S INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2.5 KG OF PLUTONIUM TO BE USED IN RESEARCH CONCERNING MIXED OXIDE FUELS. THE PROLIFERATION DANGERS OF TAIWAN'S POSSESSION OF SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF PLUTONIUM ARE EXTREMELY GREAT, AND THEREFORE WE DO NOT FORESEE USG'S GRANTING APPROVAL FOR ANY SUCH REQUESTS.

2. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COMMISSION COULD PROVIDE ON PROPOSED 10.5 KG SALE. WHICH ROC AGENCY WAS TO BE THE END USER OF THIS PLUTONIUM? WHAT PURCHASING AGENTS DID THE ROC WORK THROUGH

IN ARRANGING THIS TRANSACTION? WHAT WAS THE ISOTOPE CONTENT OF THE PLUTONIUM TO BE PROVIDED? WHAT WAS THE STATED PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE PLUTONIUM WAS TO BE USED? IS THIS THE FIRST PROPOSED PLUTONIUM PURCHASE WHICH HAS COME TO THE COMMISSION'S ATTENTION? ARE ANY OTHER SIMILAR REQUESTS PENDING BEFORE THE COMMISSION? ROBINSON

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